

Broadcast of Recorded Interview with Anwar Sadat - 11 Nov. 1957

Question: In your capacity as head of the preparatory committee of the Afro-Asian Conference, could you say something about the unity of the Arab and Asian peoples?

Answer: This union between the Arab peoples and the peoples of Asia is a very vital matter, not only for the sake of peace among these peoples, but also for the sake of the entire world. We saw during the aggressors' war against Egypt how the support of these peoples for the cause of freedom changed the course of history. Unity exists among these peoples despite all the obstacles which imperialism tries to place in its way in the form of pacts or pressure. All these pacts have failed, as will the pressure, because the peoples are determined to go forward along the path of peaceful coexistence.

Question: The Soviet Union has recently launched the second artificial satellite. What are your views on this event?

Answer: The launching of the second artificial satellite is a bright victory, not only for the Soviet Union and for the Soviet scientists, but for all the peace-loving forces throughout the world. The launching has political significance. In other words, science is no longer something that can be monopolized by one side. Science is no longer a weapon only in the hands of a conceited man, who tries to threaten the world with it. As to the scientific side, it is undoubtedly a great gain for humanity, which has opened before it new horizons to advance to a higher level and to discoveries which would increase the prosperity of the human race. We consider it a victory for peace, for peaceful coexistence, and for the new epoch which should prevail throughout the world, namely, the epoch in which everyone respects the other's wishes, freedom, and independence.

Question: The eyes of the entire world public are focused on the question of the cessation of all tests of nuclear and hydrogen weapons. What is your attitude and that of the Egyptian socialist circles regarding this?

Answer: We read here in Egypt of what took place in Hiroshima. We here in Egypt sincerely hope that there will be no repetition of the ugly tragedy of Hiroshima, which caused our brethren great distress and suffering. We are against those tests, which are taking place with no other aim but the annihilation of the human race and the finding of ways to expose it to more torture.

Anwar Sadat, Egyptian Delegation, pointed out that the participants in the conference were united by their common striving for the triumph of peace and justice on earth. "We, in Egypt, have learned from bitter experience that it means to live under imperialist aggression and tyranny. The destruction of imperialism in all its manifestations will be an enormous step toward the realization of the most cherished dream of the peoples—that of peace and justice on earth."

He declared that the peoples of Asia and Africa which make up three-quarters of the population of the globe had for a long time been deprived of the right to self-determination and self-government. As a result of their struggle, most of the Asian and African countries have now obtained freedom while others are on their way to it. The peoples of Asian and African countries, he stressed, represent a powerful force striving to insure universal peace.

P. Anisov, representative of the Soviet Committee of Asian Solidarity, stressed in his speech that the Brotherly spirit, ideas of friendship and solidarity give inspiration to all peoples fighting for their national independence and freedom and make them confident of the triumph of their just cause.

Using the notorious Dulles-Eisenhower Doctrine as a cover, aggressive American circles in alliance with other imperialist powers are attempting to restore colonial domination in the Middle East and to force the peoples of Asia and Africa to their knees. The Soviet people together with the peace-loving people of all the world, condemn and resolutely fight against the adventurous policy of imperialism and colonialism. The warmongers would do well to remember that the peoples of the Arab world and Africa are not alone. Ranged on their side are honest people of all the globe.

Tung Ming-shan, representative of the Chinese Asian Solidarity Committee, said that the 600 millions of the people of China supported the peoples of Syria, Algeria, and other Asian and African countries fighting for their freedom and independence, against imperialist plots. Then he pointed out that Taiwan is still occupied by the Americans and that the U.S. ruling circles continued their hostile policy toward the Chinese people. The lawful rights of People's China in the United Nations have not yet been restored and the imperialist countries continue the blockade of China.

Indian delegate, Asap Singh, stressed the great international significance the Bandung Conference had for the strengthening of the solidarity of the peoples of Asia and Africa. He expressed confidence that the work of the preparatory committee for the convocation of the solidarity conference of Asian and African countries would help to intensify the struggle of the peoples against the imperialist conspiracies in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia.

The leader of the Mongolian delegation delivered a speech in which he expressed his country's belief in the right of the Asian and African peoples for independence and freedom. He said that his country supports Syria in its problem and demanded that the imperialists keep their hands off Syria.

The leader of the Sudanese delegation said that solidarity between the Asian and African peoples was clearly manifest during the tripartite aggression against Egypt. Since that day his country, he said, has felt the value of adhering to the Bandung resolutions and to positive neutrality. The Sudanese delegate asked all the members to stand by Syria for the sake of preserving peace and preventing war. He also said that if all peoples respected the principles of the United Nations, peace and freedom would prevail in all parts of the world.

The leader of the Lebanese delegation said that the Eisenhower plan expresses the viewpoint of all the imperialist powers and is used not only for aggressing against Syria and isolating Egypt, but also for threatening all the Asian and African peoples. Thus there should be closing of ranks and solidarity in order to repel such projects. He also expressed his welcome of the convening of the forthcoming conference in Cairo, the capital of Afro-Asian liberation.

The representative of Libya, Ali Rajab: "The meetings afforded us an opportunity to observe closely the spirit of brotherhood and solidarity which has emerged among the peoples of Asia and Africa.. The socialist ideology played an effective role in awakening, developing, and strengthening it. It has led the peoples of Asia and Africa, who for many centuries remained weak, enslaved, and exploited by the reactionary, imperialist, and capitalist forces, to rise from their slumber and to stand for their lawful rights. Indeed, the meeting of such a large number of the states of Asia and Africa, including such great states as the Soviet Union, China,

Japan, India, Indonesia, Burma, Egypt, Syria, and others, is not unimportant; it is a great historic event, which prompts us to be optimistic about the future of mankind and assures us that the forces of reaction, tyranny, and aggression against small nations will soon collapse before the march of socialism, the sound social principles, and the ideas of solidarity which are based on brotherhood among men.

"In fact, the attitude of indignation adopted by the preparatory committee toward the aggression threatening the peaceful Syrian people also showed clearly the extent of the brotherhood between the Asian and African peoples. It also proved that there is no longer room for imperialism to continue its hostility toward the peoples of Asia and Africa.

"The Arab people in Libya, who deeply believe in the ideas of peace, positive neutrality, and social justice, are happy to follow with full satisfaction the humanitarian efforts which the Soviet Union and the free socialist peoples are making for the liberation of the weak peoples from the tentacles of imperialist aggression pursued by the United States, Britain, and France.

"The Libyan people are grieved to remain isolated from world public opinion and to be under the domination of the Anglo-American forces of aggression represented by the aggressive military bases scattered throughout our country. Both the United States and Britain use these bases to impose their aggressive policy on Libya, to shackle her with the chains of imperialist military pacts and treaties, and to subjugate her to the burden of the regulations of martial law, in spite of the Libyan constitution and sovereignty. It is unfortunate that Libya, whose independence was proclaimed by the United Nations in 1948, and which was then called the daughter of the United Nations, should now become an Anglo-American sphere of influence and a base for aggression against our Arab neighbors.

"(Two or three words indistinct), which is a Libyan town occupied by British forces, was used for the tripartite aggression against Egypt, although the Libyan people are very affectionate and loyal toward Egypt and share all the feelings and hopes of the Egyptian people.

"I must refer to the spirit of cooperation expressed by all the Asian and African delegates during the meetings of the preparatory committee. The success attained by the Soviet Union is also the best guarantee for the safety of mankind, its security and stability."

Yesterday an Egyptian-Afghani communique was issued concerning the outcome of the talks between the great guest of Egypt, the Afghani premier, and President Nasser. The most important point of the communique was the affirmation of the Bandung resolutions and adherence to the principles of positive neutrality and opposition to groupings. The communique has three points of significance: 1. the time of its issue; 2. its contents; and 3. the position of the two signatory states.

The circumstances in which the communique was issued is of significance. It was issued at a time when imperialism, under the leadership of America, was directing its attack against the independence and freedom of the Arab and Asian peoples. Following the failure of the triple aggression against Egypt, America started to direct her attack under the name of the Eisenhower Plan against the Arab states with the object of undermining their unity and then dominating them one after another. Perhaps the Jordanian events are the best witness to this. The communique was issued at a time when imperialism was intensifying its attack on the Arab countries and at a time when some politicians chose to forget the Bandung principles and positive neutrality. Therefore, the communique was issued as a confirmation of the Bandung principles and for positive neutrality and as an appeal to restore cohesion and links to what they were before.

As for the second point of the communique, it came as a slap to those lying in wait who could not imagine that there are small states capable of preserving their independence and of adhering to positive neutrality and helping in the consolidation of world peace. It also came as a directive to those who say that we must neither be with the East or with the West--and in this they, of course, mean the West. The communique showed that joint security (passage indistinct) is the only way of limiting the domination of one state over another. It is a way of preventing (bloc?) and groupings, and it is a way of preventing the settlement of disputes by force. It also consolidates the independence of the smaller states. The communique also stresses the need for us, we the independent smaller states, to adhere to these principles, since in them is to be found our existence and security.

As for the third point of significance in the communique, it is that it was issued by Egypt and Afghanistan. Egypt is the liberation force in the Arab East, and it is a country against which the forces of imperialism have concentrated in an attempt to isolate it from the Arab ranks against which out of all the countries of the Arab East, propaganda has been intensified in an attempt to revive the old propaganda concerning direct and indirect Soviet aggression. And now the phrase "positive neutrality" has come to mean Communism in the view of the Americans. Afghanistan is a state whose borders are adjacent to the borders of the Soviet Union, and it is a state (word indistinct) and in spite of this, its policy has been one of independence and peace. Afghanistan's first thought of how to live in peace with the Soviet Union and did not think of how to defend itself against the Soviet Union. Afghanistan had faith in her independence and positive neutrality. The years have passed and the Soviet Union has respected the independence of Afghanistan and has given her aid without conditions and without interfering in her domestic affairs. The Soviet Union is preserving the independence of Afghanistan. Thus monarchist Afghanistan is not afraid for her political regime and does not fear the Soviet Union and has faith in her positive neutrality.

Now we would like to ask the imperialist press, is Afghanistan, a monarchist and Islamic state which believes in positive neutrality, is she also a victim of International Communism? Sincere greetings to the Afghan premier and the great Afghan people of glorious tradition, who believe in their freedom, independence, and positive neutrality.